

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): Weldable component of structural steel, characterized in that ~~its~~wherein the chemical composition comprises, by weight:

$$0.10\% \leq C \leq 0.22\%$$

$$0.50\% \leq Si \leq 1.50\%$$

$$0\% < Al \leq 0.9\%$$

$$0\% \leq Mn \leq 3\%$$

$$0\% \leq Ni \leq 5\%$$

$$0\% \leq Cr \leq 4\%$$

$$0\% \leq Cu \leq 1\%$$

$$0\% \leq Mo + W/2 \leq 1.5\%$$

$$0.0005\% \leq B \leq 0.010\%$$

$$0\% < N \leq 0.025\%$$

optionally at least one element selected from V, Nb, Ta, S and Ca, at contents of less than 0.3%, and/or from Ti and Zr at contents of less than or equal to 0.5%, the remainder being iron and impurities resulting from the production operation,

the contents of aluminum, boron, titanium and nitrogen, expressed in thousandths of %, of the composition also satisfying the following relationship:

$$B \geq \frac{1}{3} \times K + 0.5, \quad (1)$$

with  $K = \text{Min}(I^*; J^*)$

$I^* = \text{Max}(0; I)$  and  $J^* = \text{Max}(0; J)$

$I = \text{Min}(N; N - 0.29(Ti - 5))$

$J = \text{Min}\left(N; 0.5\left(N - 0.52 \text{ Al} + \sqrt{(N - 0.52 \text{ Al})^2 + 283}\right)\right),$

the contents of silicon and aluminum of the composition also complying with the following conditions:

if  $C > 0.145$ , then  $Si + Al < 0.95$ ;

~~and~~ whose structure is bainitic, martensitic or martensitic-bainitic and also comprises from 3 to 20% of residual austenite; and

the chemical composition also satisfies the following relationship:

$$\%Cr + 3(\%Mo + \%W/2) \geq 1.8.$$

2. (currently amended): Steel component according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ itswherein chemical composition also satisfies the following relationship:

$$1.1\%Mn + 0.7\%Ni + 0.6\%Cr + 1.5(\%Mo + \%W/2) \geq 1 \quad (2)$$

3. (currently amended): Steel component according to claim 2, ~~characterized also in that itswherein~~ the chemical composition also satisfies the following relationship:

$$1.1\%Mn + 0.7\%Ni + 0.6\%Cr + 1.5(\%Mo + \%W/2) \geq 2 \quad (2)$$

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended): Steel component according to ~~claim 4~~claim 1, characterized ~~in that it is~~wherein chemical composition also satisfies the following relationship:

$$\%Cr + 3(\%Mo + \%W/2) \geq 2.0.$$

6. (withdrawn): Method for manufacturing a weldable steel component according to claim 1, wherein

- the component is austenitized by heating at a temperature of from  $Ac_3$  to  $1000^{\circ}C$ , and it is then cooled to a temperature of less than or equal to  $200^{\circ}C$ , in such a manner that, at the core of the component, the rate of cooling between  $800^{\circ}C$  and  $500^{\circ}C$  is greater than or equal to the critical bainitic velocity,

- optionally, tempering is effected at a temperature of less than or equal to  $Ac_1$ .

7. (withdrawn - currently amended): Method according to claim 6, characterized ~~in that~~wherein, at the core of the component, the cooling rate between  $500^{\circ}C$  and a temperature of less than or equal to  $200^{\circ}C$  is from  $0.07^{\circ}C/s$  to  $5^{\circ}C/s$ .

8. (withdrawn - currently amended): Method according to claim 6 or 7, characterized ~~in that~~wherein tempering is effected at a temperature of less than  $300^{\circ}C$  for a period of time of less than 10 hours, at the end of the cooling operation to a temperature of less than or equal to  $200^{\circ}C$ .

9. (withdrawn - currently amended): Method according to claim 6 or 7, characterized in ~~that~~wherein no tempering is carried out at the end of the cooling operation to a temperature of less than or equal to 200°C.

10. (withdrawn - currently amended): Method for manufacturing a weldable steel plate according to claim 1, the thickness of which is from 3 mm to 150 mm, characterized in ~~that~~wherein the plate is quenched, the cooling rate  $V_R$  at the core of the component between 800°C and 500°C and the composition of the steel being such that:

$$1.1\% \text{Mn} + 0.7\% \text{Ni} + 0.6\% \text{Cr} + 1.5(\% \text{Mo} + \% \text{W}/2) + \log V_R \geq 5.5$$

wherein  $V_R$  being in °C/hour.

11. (withdrawn - currently amended): Method for manufacturing a weldable steel plate according to claim 10, the thickness of which is from 3 mm to 150 mm, characterized wherein, in addition, ~~in that~~ the plate is quenched, the cooling rate  $V_R$  at the core of the component between 800°C and 500°C and the composition of the steel being such that:

$$1.1\% \text{Mn} + 0.7\% \text{Ni} + 0.6\% \text{Cr} + 1.5(\% \text{Mo} + \% \text{W}/2) + \log V_R \geq 6$$

wherein  $V_R$  being in °C/hour.

12. (withdrawn): Method according to claim 6, wherein the chemical composition of the steel satisfies the following relationship:

$$1.1\% \text{Mn} + 0.7\% \text{Ni} + 0.6\% \text{Cr} + 1.5(\% \text{Mo} + \% \text{W}/2) \geq 1 \quad (2)$$

13. (withdrawn): Method according to claim 12, wherein the chemical composition of the steel satisfies the following relationship:

$$1.1\% \text{Mn} + 0.7\% \text{Ni} + 0.6\% \text{Cr} + 1.5(\% \text{Mo} + \% \text{W}/2) \geq 2 \quad (2)$$

14. (canceled).

15. (withdrawn - currently amended): Method according to ~~claim 14~~claim 6, wherein the chemical composition of the steel satisfies the following relationship:

$$\% \text{Cr} + 3(\% \text{Mo} + \% \text{W}/2) \geq 2.0.$$

16. (withdrawn): Method according to claim 10, wherein the chemical composition of the steel satisfies the following relationship:

$$1.1\% \text{Mn} + 0.7\% \text{Ni} + 0.6\% \text{Cr} + 1.5(\% \text{Mo} + \% \text{W}/2) \geq 1 \quad (2)$$

17. (withdrawn): Method according to claim 16, wherein the chemical composition of the steel satisfies the following relationship:

$$1.1\% \text{Mn} + 0.7\% \text{Ni} + 0.6\% \text{Cr} + 1.5(\% \text{Mo} + \% \text{W}/2) \geq 2 \quad (2)$$

18. (canceled).

19. (withdrawn - currently amended): Method according to ~~claim 18~~claim 10, wherein the chemical composition of the steel satisfies the following relationship:

$$\% \text{Cr} + 3(\% \text{Mo} + \% \text{W}/2) \geq 2.0.$$